

The First Christmas

By Emma J. Knoch,
In the Wisconsin Farmer

"Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!
Clang the heavy, deep-toned bell,
And all the world gives back the answer:
Christ is born, and all is well."

OVER nineteen hundred years ago there lived in the little town of Nazareth a humble carpenter and his wife, Mary.

At this time the ruler of the Roman empire, Augustus Caesar, required all persons to pay taxes for the upkeep of the kingdom. Joseph was a descendant of King David. Although he was living in Galilee, the law required him to go to Bethlehem in Judea to pay his taxes.

When it was time to pay the tribute, Joseph took Mary with him on the journey to Bethlehem. It was a tiresome journey. They were very weary when they reached the little town. Joseph went to the hotel to get a room where they could rest. But poor Joseph was disappointed, for so many other people had come to the little town that day the rooms were all taken. No doubt Joseph and Mary felt lonely and discouraged as night came on. At last they went to a stable to find a place to sleep. Here in a manger the Savior of the World was born.

This was a very lowly place indeed for the Prince of Peace to be born. Prophets had been foretelling his coming for many years. People were expecting him to come, but in some very grand way. Some thought he would make the kings leave their thrones and himself be the ruler. But he came as a sweet, dear little babe.

Now, you wonder how the people heard of his birth, in those long, long ago days when there were no telegraphs or telephones? Perhaps you think so important news as this would be announced publicly by the highest officials or the richest people in town and a holiday declared.

But not so. The first news of his birth was told to people engaged in a very humble and lowly work.

Methods it must have been a beautiful warm night. Far out on the hills of old Judea the shepherds were herding their sheep. No doubt they were talking together about the big crowd in Bethlehem that evening. Suddenly there appeared in the sky a bright light. The shepherds were afraid. "An angel spoke to them and said, 'Be not afraid; I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.' Then he told them that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem; that they would find him, a babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger with his mother, Mary.

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a host of other angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men." After the angels were gone the shepherds talked over the wondrous news. Then they hurried away to Bethlehem to see if it was true. Sure enough, there were Mary and Joseph and the little babe, Jesus. They then went out to tell others.

God also told the news of his gift to the world by placing a new star in the sky. The wise men saw it and followed its shining rays until they, too, found the "Babe of Bethlehem." These wise men worshipped him and gave him gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense.

This was the first Christmas.

CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR

By MARY G. BONNER
THE air was keen and cold and invigorating. The snow was falling gently. In every house Christmas presents were being wrapped, cheery messages and cards and letters were being sent. Almost-forgotten friends were thought of and remembered by a card, a wish, a small gift.
For Christmas was in the air!
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The Christmas Wreath



TEN THOUSAND MURDERS

More than ten thousand murders were committed in the United States during 1921. This is revealed by a check-up conducted by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, consulting statistician of the Prudential Insurance Company. Hoffman found that 28 leading cities, with combined population of 20,558,770, had 1910 murders last year.

On a population basis, this is over ten thousand known murders for the whole country. To them must be added the unknown murders that are successfully concealed and do not show up in the police reports. These probably run into the thousands. The death toll should draw a grim smile from the Turks, next time America gets excited about Armenian massacres.

Open pigeon holes in your memory, compare records, and the thought occurs to you that just about as many Americans are murdered as are killed by autos. It is hard to decide which of the two is most amazing. Picture a town of ten thousand inhabitants, all murdered in cold blood during one night. A frightful picture. But it is a true picture of the murder situation in so-called civilized America. Spread out over gigantic territory and divided among our millions of people, with a murder here and there, day after day, and we lose sight of the terrible total.

Dr. Hoffman found that in 1921 the murder rate was a fraction more than nine out of every one thousand Americans. Allowing the concealed murders that are never definitely discovered (including many "missing persons" cases), a conservative estimate is that one American in every ten thousand is murdered yearly. This means that your chance of being slain is one in ten thousand each year, one in one thousand during a period of ten years. Figure it up over a life time and, if you lived one hundred years, one chance in one hundred of being slain. A dreadful penalty is this for permitting the sale of pistols, which are the death instrument in the majority of murders.

The bright side of the picture is that, while more than ten thousand are murdered in a year, at least 108,000,000 are not murdered. As in all other forms of crime, evil is "far and away" in the minority. That's why evil gets so much attention—its exception, the unusual. Most of us, after all, are decent law-abiding citizens.—Charlotte Observer.

(By W. L. Winkler)
Our editor often complains of being slightly deaf, so the other day he ran into the office in a hurry for some information from one of the hired boys, who attempted in a loud voice, to enlighten him "What did you say?" asked the editor, putting his hand to his ear. The young man repeated the answer in a still louder voice. "I can't hear you," said the editor. Oh, chase yourself around the well-house, you old granny," muttered the impatient boy, just above his breath. "I am not an old granny," said the editor, turning away, "and I will not chase myself around the well-house either."

JANUARY FIRST DRAWS NEAR.

The light and airy manner
He had some weeks ago
Has passed from him completely.
His heart is filled with woe,
For that day is approaching
He great dreads to see,
When Friend Wife will remind him
Of promises that he
Has made—those resolutions
That will be hard to keep,
Requiring such an effort,
'Twould make an angel weep.

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Office in P. O. Building
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

(Continued from page Seven)
der of said Court dated August 19, 1922, the said W. S. Whiting, John A. Hambleton and W. W. Miller, receivers, were directed to, and did, turn over and deliver to said Duff Merrick and John A. Hambleton all and singular those certain properties of the Company situated in said State and conveyed in said mortgage, said Whiting, Hambleton and Miller, receivers aforesaid, however retaining possession of all other properties and assets of said defendant which had theretofore come into their hands, and which were not subject to the lien of the mortgage aforesaid.

By an order dated November 7, 1922, said Whiting, Hambleton and Miller, receivers as aforesaid, were ordered and directed to sell all of the properties and assets of the Company remaining in their possession, and situated in said State of North Carolina, and not covered by the lien of the mortgage aforesaid, excepting cash on hand, choses in action, securities, manufactured lumber and notes and accounts receivable, free, clear and discharged of and from all liens and claims. Subsequently the said W. S. Whiting resigned as such receiver and Duff Merrick has been appointed in his

Therefore, in accordance with said order, the undersigned receivers will offer all of the properties and assets now remaining in their hands for sale at public auction at the time and places, and upon the terms hereinafter set forth.

The properties and assets to be sold consist of articles of personal property which are to varied and numerous to be listed in detail. Complete inventories of all of said properties and assets have been prepared and are on file with the Court and at the offices of the receivers in the Asheville Citizen Building, Asheville, North Carolina, and may be inspected by prospective bidders on any business day, before the dates of sale, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 4.30 p. m., or, the receivers will, upon application to the above office, supply such additional information regarding the properties and assets to be sold as may be requested; and, upon application, the receivers will afford reasonable opportunity to prospective bidders to visit the premises of the Company for examination and inspection of the properties and assets to be offered.

The receivers will first offer the properties and assets for sale in lots as hereinafter listed, reserving the right to also offer separately the various articles composing any lot as may be announced at the time of sale, and, after the properties and assets situated in the several counties, shall have been so offered for sale in lots, they will, at each of the places of sale hereinafter named, be offered for sale as a whole. Accordingly the properties and assets hereinafter listed as being situated in the Counties of Watauga and Avery will first be offered for sale at public auction, for cash, at the Courthouse door in the Town of Boone in said County of Watauga, at 12 o'clock, noon, on the 5th day of January, 1923, in lots, reserving the right to also offer separately the articles composing any lot as may be announced at the time of sale, and, upon conclusion of the bidding for said properties and assets in lots, they will be offered for sale at public auction, for cash, as a whole, and the properties and assets hereinafter listed as being situated in said County Cherokee will first be offered for sale at public auction, for cash, at the Courthouse door in the Town of Murphy in said County of Cherokee, at 12 o'clock, noon, on the 9th day of January, 1923, in lots, reserving the right to also offer separately the articles composing any lot as may be announced at the time of sale, and, upon the conclusion of the bidding for said properties and assets in lots, they will be offered for sale at public auction, for cash, as a whole.

Bids will be received at said places of sale for and upon the following:
(a) At the sale to be made at Boone, upon any item situated in said Counties of Watauga and Avery, separately or in lots as said lots may be determined and offered by the receivers;
(b) Upon all items situated in said Counties of Watauga and Avery in the aggregate;
(c) At the sale to be made in Murphy, upon any items situated in said County of Cherokee, separately, or in lots as said lots may be determined and offered by the receivers;
(d) Upon all items situated in said County of Cherokee in the aggregate.

As above mentioned, the items to be offered are too varied and numerous to be set forth specifically, but the receivers have determined upon and grouped the properties into lots, in accordance with the order of sale, as follows:
LOT No. 1, WATAUGA COUNTY.
Office equipment at the main office of the saw mill and lumber manufacturing plant at Shulls Mills, consisting of six desks, three tables, sundry chairs, three filing cabinets, two safes, telephone system, baskets, files, dictaphone apparatus, stoves, stationery and miscellaneous supplies.
Office equipment in the engineer's office and yard office, oil house and store room of the Shulls Mills mill and plant consisting of two desks, four tables, sundry chairs, stoves, adding machine, telephone system, files, cabinets, typewriters, baskets and miscellaneous supplies.
Picture Show equipment at Shulls Mills mill and plant consisting of benches, stove and equipment, screen, projecting machine and electrical compensator.

LOT No. 2, WATAUGA COUNTY.
Household furniture, log camp equipment and bungalow equipment at Shulls Mills mill and plant consisting of one hundred sixteen beds with necessary springs, mattresses, sheets, blankets, comforts, pillows and pillow cases, large number of towels, sundry napkins, six ranges and sundry heating stoves, chairs, tables, curtains, shades, pitchers, basins, dishes, spoons, knives, forks, phonograph, glasses, kettles, pans, pots, buckets, kitchen utensils, rugs, stools, lamps, chimneys, pantry equipment, laundry equipment, etc., in sufficient quantities to supply the normal requirements for the operation of the mill and plant.

LOT No. 3, WATAUGA COUNTY.
Logs in pond at the Shulls Mills mill and plant, consisting of approximately 2,200,000 feet, chiefly of chestnut and oak, but including hemlock, spruce and maple, and smaller footages of poplar, ash and other woods.

LOT No. 4, WATAUGA COUNTY.
Commissary equipment and supplies at Shulls Mills mill and plant, consisting of store equipment, cases, stoves, pumps, shelves, scales, cutters, files, cash register, etc., and the

stock of supplies in said commissary consisting of shoes and over-shoes for men, women and children, clothing, hats, groceries, dry goods, toilet articles and preparations, drugs, tobacco, candy, stationery, syrups, hardware, lanterns, china, miscellaneous items of wearing apparel, cloths and other goods, and general commissary supplies; soda fountain equipment and accessories.

LOT No. 5, WATAUGA COUNTY.
Horses and Cows. Nineteen head of horses and one cow at Shulls Mills mill and plant.

LOT No. 6, CHEROKEE COUNTY.
Office equipment at the office of the Murphy mill and plant, consisting of four desks, sundry chairs, tables, filing cabinet, safe telephone system, typewriters, stools, filing cases, clock and miscellaneous office supplies.

LOT No. 7, CHEROKEE COUNTY.
Club house and Logging Camp equipment at the Murphy mill and plant, consisting of forty-eight (48) beds, with necessary mattresses, springs, comforts, blankets, sheets, pillows and cases, six oak dressers, five (5) washstands, sundry chairs, towels, stoves, dishes, knives, forks, spoons, bowls and pitchers and other furniture and miscellaneous household equipment, also sundry harness and stables supplies.

LOT No. 8, CHEROKEE COUNTY.
Horses and cow. Fourteen head of horses and one cow at Murphy mill and plant.

LOT No. 9, CHEROKEE COUNTY.
Commissary supplies, in small quantity, at the Murphy mill and plant, consisting of syrup, preserves, soap, spices, etc.

LOT No. 10, CHEROKEE COUNTY.
Logs at dump in woods near Murphy mill and plant, consisting of approximately 4,153,000 feet, chiefly chestnut, oak and hemlock, and including poplar, bass, maple and other woods.

The receivers will require from each bidder, whose bid shall be accepted, a deposit in cash, or by certified check satisfactory to the receivers, to an amount equal to ten per cent, of the amount of each bid, which deposits shall be retained until the sales having been acted upon by the Court. Deposits made on account of sales confirmed will be credited on such sales respectively, and the balance of the purchase price will then become due and payable.

The receivers may adjourn any of the above offerings from time to time, by notice appropriately given at the time and place appointed for such offerings or adjourned offerings and without further notice or publication, unless the receivers deem it advisable to make same, and may proceed with the offering upon the adjourned dates without further notice.

Upon the conclusion of all of the offerings, the receivers will report same to the Court, which may accept or reject and bid so reported and confirm any bid so accepted, whether of a part, or of all or of any of said properties so offered for sale, and, if the sales of any of said properties and assets are not confirmed, any and every deposit made on account of any such sale not confirmed will be returned to the bidder or bidders making same, and those properties and assets, the sales of which are not confirmed, will be again offered for sale upon such terms and conditions as the Court may direct.

If the Court shall accept any such bid or bids and shall confirm such

sale or sales the purchaser or purchasers shall pay the balance of the purchase price in cash, with the right on the part of the receivers, if deferred payments are desired, to accept one-third payable in cash, one-third payable in six months and one-third payable in twelve months. Any and all deferred payments shall be represented by the notes of the purchaser or purchasers, with such security by way of endorsement or endorsement, or collateral deposited therewith, as shall be satisfactory to the receivers and approved by the Court, and shall bear interest at the rate of six per cent per annum from their dates until paid.

Upon confirmation of sale and upon payment of the purchase price, the receivers will transfer and turn over to the purchaser or purchasers the properties and assets bought, free and clear of all liens and claims, and will execute all necessary papers and perform all acts necessary to release the claim of the receivers and to vest unincumbered title in the purchaser or purchasers, but shall not assume the duties or expenses of delivering the properties and as-

sets bought.
The Court, contemporaneously with the order of sale herein, passed an order of sale in foreclosure proceedings heretofore instituted against the Company by Commerce Trust Company, trustee under the mortgage by the Company of certain of its properties, and the mortgaged properties have also been ordered sold by the Court, and, for the purpose of giving opportunity to the purchaser or purchasers under said foreclosure order of sale to bid for the properties and assets sold hereunder, it was ordered that the receivers herein might conduct the offerings and sale or sales herein, at the same time or times and places as the sale or sales to be conducted under the said foreclosure order of sale, and the offerings herein provided for will, therefore, be conducted at or about the same time as the sales of the mortgaged properties.
JOHN A. HAMBLETON
W. W. MILLER
DUFF MERRICK,
Receivers.
J. V. ERSKINE,
Auctioneer.



To Our Friends And Customers

As the year draws to a close and we stand on the threshold of a new one, we find it fitting to extend to our many patrons and friends, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the patronage and good will shown us during the past year. We will soon be in new brick quarters where we will be better equipped to mete out the kind of service our trade demands.

We wish for each and everyone a

Christmas filled to the brim

with happiness,

And

A New Year, Prosperous and Joyful.

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